Summary of IUC's White Mesa Disposal Cell Cover Proposal

Figure 2–39 illustrates details (materials and thicknesses) of a typical reclamation cover that IUC proposes to construct. This proposed cover differs somewhat from the cover previously described for the reference cell but is typical of other NRC-approved covers for private licenses.

Components of the final top cover from the top down would consist of erosion protection riprap, a frost barrier, a compacted clay radon barrier, and a platform fill layer directly over the tailings. The side slope cover would consist of random fill covered by riprap. On-site borrow is available for all material except the riprap. Quarries located north of Blanding, approximately 8 miles from the White Mesa Mill site, would be used as the riprap source. Placement of these layers would be similar to that previously described for the reference cell. The materials would be stockpiled near the cell, then emplaced and compacted using standard construction equipment and techniques.

2.2.6 Monitoring and Maintenance

After completion of tailings placement and site reclamation, monitoring and maintenance of an off-site disposal cell at any of the three proposed locations would be in accordance with the Long-Term Surveillance and Maintenance Plan approved by NRC. Drainage areas and other areas susceptible to erosion would be inspected and repaired as needed.

Monitoring and maintenance procedures for the reference off-site disposal cell and the White Mesa Mill off-site disposal cell would be similar but not identical. An example of how monitoring and maintenance at the White Mesa Mill disposal cell would differ from the reference cell would be the need to manage storm water and internal infiltration drainage from upslope disposal cells at the White Mesa Mill site. There are no preexisting upslope cells with the reference cell design. Another example would be the need to operate and monitor the liner, drains, and leak detection system that would ostensibly be left in place in cell 4B at the White Mesa Mill site. This type of drainage system would not be used with the reference cell design.

2.2.7 Resource Requirements

This section describe DOE's estimate of the major resource requirements for the off-site disposal alternative.

2.2.7.1 Labor

Table 2–16 through Table 2–18 show the estimated average annual labor requirements. In all cases, the labor category "Site Support" represents construction oversight personnel employed by the Technical Assistance Contractor for DOE.

Off-site disposal would require construction labor to be performed at the Moab site, vicinity properties, borrow areas, and the selected disposal cell site. It would also require transportation-related labor. DOE's estimates of the average annual labor requirements for construction-related activities for the Moab site, vicinity properties, borrow areas, and the selected disposal cell would be the same for all three modes of transportation. In general, single numbers in Table 2–16 through Table 2–18 indicate the labor for a single 12-hour shift working 7 days a week, 350 days a year. A double-shift schedule would require 67 to 100 percent more total work force to accomplish the same work. Where dual numbers are shown in the tables, they indicate the labor required for a single 12-hour shift (lower number) versus a double 10-hour shift schedule.